

# Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section  
Legal and Civic Services Department  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast  
City Council**

## **MEETING OF THE CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE -COMBINED PACK**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room, City Hall on Wednesday, 10th April, 2024 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

1. **Routine Matters**

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

2. **Restricted Items**

- (a) Vacant to Vibrant Programme (Pages 1 - 8)

3. **Presentation**

- (a) Translink - Belfast Grand Central Station (RESTRICTED) (Pages 9 - 42)

4. **Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure**

- (a) Belfast City Centre Regeneration Tracker (Pages 43 - 48)

5. **Positioning Belfast to Compete**

- (a) Update on Neighbourhood Tourism (Pages 49 - 58)
- (b) International Relations Activity - New York-New Belfast event (Pages 59 - 62)
- (c) Update on Lord Mayor's Day (Pages 63 - 66)

6. **Strategic and Operational Issues**

- (a) City Growth and Regeneration Committee Plan 2024-2025- Update (Pages 67 - 70)
- (b) Notice of Motion Quarterly Update (Pages 71 - 78)

7. **Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

- (a) Belfast 2024 Animation - Culture Night (Cllr Groogan to raise)

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6  
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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1.1	To provide Members with an update on the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Tracker which captures regeneration and development activity which took place in the City Centre during 2023, as aligned to the eight core policies of the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS). The detail of this report will be provided by way of a presentation at Committee.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>Members are asked to note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) An overview of regeneration and development activity which took place in Belfast City Centre and Titanic Quarter during 2023, as aligned to the eight core principles set out in the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy, will be provided by way of a presentation to be made to this Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023.</li> <li>ii) This will include identifying challenges and proposed next steps to help unlock the next stage of the delivery of the Regeneration &amp; Investment Strategy priorities for discussion with Members.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
4.1	<p>As members are aware the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) sets out our collective ambition for the continued growth and regeneration of the city core and its surrounding areas for the period 2015 to 2030. It contains a road map of policies to guide city centre decision-making and key projects that translate those policies into action, aligned to our overarching ambitions outlined within the Belfast Agenda. BCCRIS seeks to address the universal elements of a thriving city centre as well as challenges and conditions that are unique to Belfast and is underpinned by the following eight core principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the Employment Population;</li> <li>• Increase the Residential Population;</li> <li>• Manage the Retail Offer;</li> <li>• Maximise the Tourism Opportunity;</li> <li>• Create Regional Learning and Innovation Centres;</li> <li>• Create a Green, Walkable, Cyclable Centre;</li> <li>• Connect to the City Around, and</li> <li>• Shared space and social impact.</li> </ul> <p>4.2 To facilitate the implementation of the eight policies for the city centre, BCCRIS identified a series of projects aimed at creating a liveable and economically thriving city, alongside, identifying the following five Special Action Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inner North</li> <li>• Inner West</li> </ul>

- North East Quarter
- Transport Hub and South Centre
- Oxford Street and the Eastern Bank

4.3 The city centre provides an important role for Belfast, the Council and the wider region given Belfast's role as the regional driver and the critical role the city centre in particular plays in terms of employment, investment, tourism, education and a place to live and to visit. , The city centre makes up 2.6% of Belfast's spatial area but represents the largest employment base employing over 86,000 workers across the various sectors, representing c37% of Belfast's workforce. Approx 80% of the Councils income comes from the district rate, with the city centre accounting for 42% of Belfast's non-domestic rates income equating to 27% of the Councils total rates income. The sectors contributing greatest to city centre rates are the office sector (60% of city centre non-domestic rate or 16% of Councils total rate income) and retail (22.5% of city centre non-domestic rate or 6% of Councils total rate income). From 2020/21 to 2022/23 the city centre non-domestic rate has increased year on year going from £42.19m to £46.52m over this 3-year period.

4.4 The purpose of the Regeneration Tracker is to provide Members with an overview of regeneration and development activity which has taken place in Belfast City Centre and Titanic Quarter during 2023 (1st January – 31st December), aligned to the eight core policies outlined within the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy. An overview of the Future City Centre Performance Dashboard will also be included, providing an overview of footfall, jobs, vacancy, and cleanliness and safety among other indicators to provide a health check overview of the performance of the city centre.

4.5 A number of the core principles and projects and developments identified within BCCRIS have progressed well since 2015 to date (and in particular during 2023 which will be the focus of the presentation to Committee). This has included significant office development, hotel and tourism, purpose-built student accommodation and major developments identified in BCCRIS such as the relocation of the University Ulster, progression of the new Transport Hub and Weavers Cross development, progression of City Deal projects including the Belfast Stories tourist attraction, waterfront development etc. Whilst retail across the UK has remained challenging previous reports to this Committee have shown that city centre ground floor vacancy levels have decreased 23% to 21% and there have been a number of new first to Belfast /first to market brands who have recently located in the city centre. It is however recognised that challenges remain around city centre living, place-shaping and public realm, dereliction, and infrastructure investment. As reported to CGR in February 2024 the lack of regeneration related funding for Belfast (and the wider region) as compared to other UK city regions has put Belfast at a distinct disadvantage in terms of city competitiveness and addressing issues of viability, place making and progressing development and

regeneration including housing and increased city centre living. As highlighted to Committee there are a number of funding streams available in other UK cities that have helped accelerate development inc the Brownfield Infrastructure and Land Fund, Future High Streets Fund, Transforming Cities Fund etc. The experience from other cities has shown that these have been critical in order to realise the full regeneration potential of their city centres and to meet wider city region requirements.

4.6 Notwithstanding the lack of this external funding, the Regeneration Tracker presentation to be made to Committee will highlight positive development activity during the 2023 period across the private and public sectors. In order to deliver the growth ambitions as set out in the Belfast Agenda to 2035 it has been estimated that this will require c £5.5bn investment and clearly the role of the private sector is critical in this. The Regeneration Tracker details the extensive private sector development delivered in 2023 along with highlighting some of the projects where Belfast City Council are leading on the delivery of addressing some of our key sectors for growth. This includes the Housing Led Regeneration Programme, the Bolder Vision, Strategic Property Acquisitions, Belfast Region City Deal Projects inc Belfast Stories, Cathedral Gardens redevelopment, 2 Royal Avenue, potential acquisition /vesting of the Tribeca site, the Vacant to Vibrant Programme, Belfast 2024 cultural activities etc.

4.7 An update on these various areas of work have been brought to both CGR and SP&R Committees. In terms of city centre living specifically it is worth highlighting the update brought to the March CGR Committee in relation to the housing led regeneration programme. This included an update on the Development Partner process where Members had been advised of the progress on the competitive dialogue process with 3 bidders for a significant multi-site, residential led mixed use regeneration development opportunity (c £630m GDV). This followed the development of a number of Concept Regeneration Plans for Council and wider public and private sector lands and PADS for each of the cluster sites. Members were also updated on the reframed Inner North West Development Brief which had been forwarded to Housing Associations, which had followed the previous pause at the request of Members and liaison with DfC as landowners and with NIHE. An update was also provided in relation to the city-wide Strategic Site Assessments where planning appraisals and feasibility studies are underway and updates to be brought initially to the Area Working Groups from May onwards.

4.8 It is worth highlighting that there are a significant number of consented residential units / schemes that have come through the planning system in the city centre particularly, and that many of these have not progressed for various reasons including issues around policy, viability, infrastructure etc, most of which are outside Council's responsibility. Notwithstanding this however it is worth noting that there are currently over 1,000 homes under construction across 6 city centre sites, and over

	1,550 social homes under construction across the city. As agreed by Members it is also intended to hold an All-Party Roundtable on Housing Regeneration to consider the various housing regeneration issues in more detail.
4.9	The Regeneration Tracker will present an update on the progress of development and regeneration activity within the city centre in 2023 as well as identifying challenges and proposed next steps to unlocking the next stage of the delivery of the Regeneration & Investment Strategy for discussion with Members.
<b>5.0</b>	<b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b>
	None associated with this report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>
	None associated with this report.
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None associated with this report.

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Update on Neighbourhood Tourism Investment Programme</b>
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lesley-Ann O'Donnell, Senior Manager - Culture and Tourism Kerry McMullan, Tourism and Events Development Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>									
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p><b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b></p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information relating to any individual</li> <li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li> <li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li> <li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li> <li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li> <li>6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction</li> <li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li> </ol>									
<p><b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;"><b>After Committee Decision</b></td> <td style="width: 5%;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>After Council Decision</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Sometime in the future</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Never</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sometime in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Call-in</b>
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Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to further update Members on the research and engagement work undertaken to date which will inform the development of a new Neighbourhood Tourism Investment Programme in due course.</p> <p>The report also provides an outline proposal for future funding of the existing City Connections programme.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) Note the contents of this paper and subsequent next steps for final scoping and designing of an appropriate Neighbourhood Tourism funding model, which suits the needs of applicants and their stage of development whilst also meeting council ambitions.</li><li>ii) Consider the recommendation to allow funding to be released under strand one of the programme to EastSide Partnership and Fáilte Feirste Thiar, in recognition of their current capacity to deliver on objectives relating to neighbourhood tourism.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<p><b>Programme Aims:</b></p> <p>In June 2023, Members granted permission to proceed with the development of a new Neighbourhood Tourism Investment Programme. This pilot programme will provide mentoring and financial support over a two - year period, to promote the development and implementation of market-led tourism products and experiences in locales across the city, increasing footfall, dwell time and spend and sharing the benefits of tourism beyond the city centre. The programme also aims to prioritise collaborative working models and uplift sectoral capacity, skill and growth.</p>



### **Research and Engagement 1: Open Workshops (x9):**

Extensive research has already been undertaken with a range of internal and external sectoral stakeholders. This work has helped to identify needs, gaps and opportunities and will help inform programme criteria and ensure proposals are aligned with the ambitions of 'Belfast Stories'.

Neighbourhood Tourism workshops were a key part of the recent engagement work at which both groups and individuals could find out more about Neighbourhood Tourism and express their own views and prioritisations around thematic questions.

Nine workshops were held across inner and outer North, South, East and West Belfast and the city centre which attracted 98 participants from 58 organisations. These were held in the following venues: *Belfast Castle, Ulster Museum, City Hall, EastSide Visitors' Centre; St Comgall's, Malone House, Shorts Recreational Club, Roddy McCorley Centre and Crumlin Road Gaol.*

In order to accommodate input from people who were not able to attend the workshops, two further avenues of engagement were made available via:

- an offer to meet one - to - one with an independent facilitator and;
- (ii) an online survey.

The Neighbourhood Tourism workshops followed a set format, with participants addressing six specific questions:

- 1) How would you describe your neighbourhood to a tourist?
- 2) Market segments : does this reflect the interests of visitors who visit your area?
- 3) Stories : what stories do local people want to share with tourists?
- 4) Neighbourhood products and experiences : what already exists? what could be done that is new?
- 5) Itineraries : how ready is your neighbourhood to welcome visitors?
- 6) What could an investment fund look like?

An analysis is currently underway of the information gathered and a final report along with options and recommendations will be brought to Committee for consideration by May 2024 .

In the interim, the following is a summary of how the workshops were received and the main points which came through at a neighbourhood level which will inform the final programme design and support.

- There was a high level of interest from a range of community organisations. Participants were positive, engaged and clearly wanted to learn more about the concept of 'Neighbourhood Tourism' and the benefits it could bring to localities across the city.
- Most participants benefitted from the overview of market segments, narratives and trends provided as part of the workshops. For voluntary and community organisations in particular, this was an exercise in finding out what they did not know and recognising they had a long road ahead in developing viable products and experiences.
- There was an acknowledgement that people's current level of understanding tourism and visitor needs would benefit from an increased knowledge of the subject, this could include tourism products, delivery methods, infrastructure and the development of tourism clusters.
- There was also learning about the wealth of stories and assets that already exist within both the city and neighbourhoods. This helped further understanding as to how lived experience matched with professional expertise can bring authenticity.
- Stakeholders talked over breaks, left together, exchanged contact details and talked of future collaborations. They also asked for more opportunities for learning, information sharing and networking.

The following points were raised by workshop participants for Council to consider in any future approach to Neighbourhood Tourism:

- A relatively small funding pot to cover projects from across the city.
- Funding welcomed as it will minimise financial risks associated with new product development and market testing.
- Tourism offerings should come from locally based residents and organisations, ie. fear of being marginalised by bigger, outside organisations with no real connection to local areas.

- Open to a collaborative approach but provision should also be included to allow smaller, individual applications.
- Match funding should not be a requirement as it could exclude potential applicants.
- A hybrid model of financial support combined with business mentoring would be beneficial.
- Support for marketing and sales came through strongly.
- Clustering opportunities could maximise impact, increase benefits and avoid duplication.
- Council to be cognisant of how parts of the city are currently not as developed as others in terms of tourism offerings and the ability to bring forward new concepts and products.
- Funding model to be user friendly and proportionate to level of funding requested.

**Research and Engagement 2 : Sectoral Stakeholders:**

The Neighbourhood Tourism based workshops were supplemented with interviews and engagement with representatives from key sectoral bodies, area partnerships and local and central government, including:

- Party Group Leaders and Elected Members who attended the workshops.
- Key BCC teams and departments, including:
  - Property and Projects
  - Neighbourhood Regeneration
  - Neighbourhood Integration
  - Community and Neighbourhood Assets
  - Central Grants
  - City Innovation
  - Economic Development
  - Culture
  - Tourism
  - Belfast 2024
  - Belfast Stories

As well as external stakeholders including:

- Department for Communities
- Department for the Economy
- Tourism NI
- Visit Belfast
- Tourism Ireland
- The Greater Shankill Convention
- Maritime Belfast
- EastSide Partnership
- Fáilte Feirste Thiar

A brief synopsis of feedback from sectoral representatives currently includes:

- Concerns in terms of restricted capacity levels with a particular focus on quality, marketing and viability.
- It was also felt that more investment was needed in Neighbourhood Tourism. Successful destination development in areas such as West Belfast, East Belfast and Maritime Belfast indicated the scale of investment required.
- A number of other strategies are currently under review or in development and it appears that stories will be a common driver for all key partners and sectoral bodies going forward.
- It was suggested that people, stories or themes should be the focus of the programme rather than neighbourhoods or that there could be distinct strands for neighbourhoods and for storytelling. There was some concern that a focus on geographic communities excludes community of identity, for example, the LGBTQ plus community.
- Other stakeholders suggested that investment should support existing or emerging anchor attractions and assets such as the city's cemeteries, Belfast Castle and Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund projects.
- There was discussion as to whether the investment programme is a fund, a strategy or a building block contributing to neighbourhood tourism development alongside, for example, a skills and training agenda.
- Consultees felt that a key benefit of the investment programme should be allowing providers to "de-risk" the development of new and enhanced products

and experiences. This should be matched by a risk appetite prepared to accept greater risk in pursuit of the greater potential benefits of innovation.

- Several consultees also reinforced that this is a pilot and in such a context , success and failure are different sides of the same point, provide that lessons are drawn and learning shared.

**Opportunities available within Go Succeed Programme:**

As part of the consultation and engagement process, Council's Tourism staff have met on a regular basis with colleagues in Economic Development to explore how a new Neighbourhood Tourism Investment Programme could benefit from the opportunities available within the existing Go Succeed programme. The aim is to provide wrap - around support in the form of concept development, tailored business assistance, guidance and mentoring. This integrated approach would provide the business acumen and support needs raised by attendees at the neighbourhood tourism workshops.

**Funding Models:**

Research and engagement work to date has provided learnings which will be taken into consideration when developing an appropriate funding model over the coming months.

It is clear that different destinations and neighbourhoods across the city are at varying stages of development. So, too, are potential providers which include businesses, social enterprises, charities, voluntary groups and sole entrepreneurs across the private, community, culture and heritage sectors.

Many providers are small and lack staff, time and financial resources to innovate or take a risk on something new or unproven. For others, tourism is not a core organisational function or focus. Some have a model that they have not been able to grow or monetise, while Tourism NI has indicated a gap in support for established providers to internationalise their offer.

Consideration will also be given by the Tourism Development Team to the respective implications of employing either a commissioning model or a grant funding model

	<p>within the CGU framework. Work will also continue to delineate operational roles and responsibilities and appropriate methods for monitoring and evaluation of outcomes.</p> <p>A detailed report on all engagement feedback and next steps, alignment to Go Succeed and funding model recommendations for member consideration will be presented at May 2024 Committee.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Eastside/Failte Feirste Thair</b></p> <p>In East Belfast, EastSide Tourism is a long-established community organisation that has many years' experience in servicing visitors' needs. In the west of the city, Fáilte Feirste Thiar is also firmly established and has a strong track record in supporting and delivering neighbourhood tourism services.</p> <p>During the research and engagement work, several stakeholders, not just those with a destination management remit, emphasised the importance of destination management at a quarter or neighbourhood level.</p> <p>Consultees pointed to gains made in the East, West and Waterfront areas in relation to strategy, co-ordination, networking, marketing, promotional material, digitisation, packaging, clustering, volunteer development, visitor servicing, accreditation and more.</p> <p>In recent years, Council has provided funding to EastSide Tourism and Fáilte Feirste Thiar to enable the City Connections programme, a partnership between the two organisations which works to maximise the impact of tourism at a local level.</p> <p>Given these organisations are long established with a strong remit of neighbourhood tourism and the current limited capacity for others to deliver offerings of a similar calibre, it is recommended to split the investment programme into two strands:</p> <p>The total budget for the Neighbourhood Tourism Investment Programme is £500,000 over a two-year period from 2024 - 2026.</p>

	<p>i) <b>Strand One</b> will continue to support the work of EastSide Tourism and Fáilte Feirste Thiar for two years, this will be by way of an annual funding agreement which will be subject to the achievement of KPIs and agreed deliverables. The organisations would each receive £62,500 per annum. This funding will support an outcomes-based model that will integrate support and capacity building to other Neighbourhood Tourism projects through an agreed delivery programme. Officers will work with both organisations to outline associated KPIs and deliverables for this funding and will be monitored via funding agreements.</p> <p>ii) <b>Strand Two</b> will provide £250,000 across the programme 2 year lifespan to support other applicants beyond to develop, test and bring to market new or enhanced tourism products and experiences. (If funding for EastSide Tourism and Fáilte Feirste Thiar is approved under strand one, these organisations would be excluded from applying for funding under strand two). The funding model options will be brought back to committee in May 2024.</p>
<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b>Financial and Resource Implications:</b></p> <p>Funding for year 1 (2024 / 25) and year 2 (2025 / 26) will be provided from Belfast Region City Deal Reserve. This is a total of £500k over the 2 financial years - £250k per annum.</p>
<p><b>6.0</b></p>	<p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment:</b></p> <p>The Neighbourhood Tourism Investment Programme has been screened for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Equality of opportunity and good relations and</li> <li>ii) Disabilities duties</li> </ul> <p>On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, it was recommended that the policy is ‘screened out - mitigating actions’ (minor impacts).</p> <p>Therefore, the consultation and engagement on Neighbourhood Tourism and draft Equality Screening took simultaneously between January and March 2024.</p> <p>This means that policy development was shaped by the findings of the consultation and screening, allowing any potential negative impacts to be designed out and opportunities to promote equality or good relations, built in.</p>

	Only minor positive impacts have been identified at this stage. The council will continue to monitor for further differential impacts.
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices:</b>  <b>N/A</b>





<b>Subject:</b>	International Relations Activity – New York-New Belfast event
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Laura Leonard, International Relations Manager

**Restricted Reports**

**Is this report restricted?** Yes  No

**Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.**

Insert number

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**If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?**

<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sometime in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Call-in**

**Is the decision eligible for Call-in?** Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to advise members of the planned New York-New Belfast event which takes place in early June 2024 and to seek approval for council engagement in and representation at the event.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
	It is recommended that Members note and approve a financial contribution of £5,000 towards the 2024 New York New Belfast event and agree the attendance of the Lord Mayor and relevant senior officials, up to a to a maximum estimated cost of £8,000.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Members will be aware of the ongoing work to develop and deliver a range of activities to attract further FDI and capital investment in the city and support the growth and scaling of innovative Belfast companies in key growth sectors. This includes support for trade development and export support; engagement in showcasing and promotional activities in key markets and development of promotional collateral and materials setting out the sectoral and infrastructure offer in the city.
3.2	One of the key international opportunities to promote the business and investment opportunities in Belfast is the annual New York-New Belfast (NYNB) showcase event which has been running for more than a decade. For the last three years, the event has been streamlined to focus on seeking economic opportunity within New York City and the wider east coast. Over 150 business, civic and political leaders gather to hear the latest Belfast capital developments and trade and investment offer across our growth sectors. An added dimension to the showcase is an opportunity to promote the tourism and cultural offers within the city, including the 2024 Year of Culture programme.
3.3	This year presents an opportunity to update potential investors on the progress of the Belfast Region City Deal key assets. An increasingly important area of engagement with the US market is the growing number of scaling companies seeking investment and mentorship to launch into the US market. Finally, the event and associated meetings provide an opportunity to meet face to face with companies who are considering establishing a base in Europe, to encourage them to explore Belfast as an investment location – particularly given the unique investment proposition that the region now benefits from. As well as the business event, the council delegation will undertake a series of targeted business meetings in partnership with Invest NI's USA office.

3.4	The 15th NYNB event will take place on 6 June 2024. Among key attendees and speakers are Comptroller Tom Di Napoli, who continues to invest US Pension Funds into NI businesses, as well as committed supporter of Belfast, Michael Flannery, who works with US-based tech businesses targeting global markets.
3.5	At an engagement session with the honorary chairs of the annual NYNB summit during the 2023 International Homecoming event in Belfast, they urged the city to hone their pitch to focus on projects which are transformative and likely to be delivered imminently, such as City Deal projects, or which have been delivered and require added value further investment such as Ulster University. They are keen that Belfast City Council presents investment opportunities and pipeline concepts with a special emphasis on innovation and leadership in green technology and AI.
3.6	Members are asked to contribute £5,000 towards the cost of the New York New Belfast economic showcase 2024 and the associated costs of the participation by Lord Mayor alongside relevant senior officers, up to a maximum estimated cost of £8,000.
3.7	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Members are asked to contribute £5,000 towards the cost of the New York New Belfast economic showcase 2024 and the associated costs of the participation by Lord Mayor alongside relevant senior officers, up to a maximum estimated cost of £8,000. The above costs are set aside within the existing International Relations budget 2024/25.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no direct Equality or Good Relations implications associated with this report. No specific rural impact.</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Update on Lord Mayors Day</b>
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lesley-Ann O'Donnell, Senior Manager - Culture and Tourism Kerry McMullan, Tourism and Events Development Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>									
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<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>								
<b>Sometime in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>								
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>								

<b>Call-in</b>
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Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The Lord Mayor's Day Event in Belfast is a cherished tradition that celebrates the city's rich history, culture, and community spirit. This event brings together residents, visitors, local businesses, to commemorate and showcase the vibrant essence of Belfast. The event features a diverse range of activities, including performances, cultural exhibitions, and family-friendly entertainment. Due to its significance in fostering civic pride and unity, the continuation of this event is vital for the city's cultural landscape.</p> <p>As noted at SP&amp;R on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, in 2024 the event will align with welcoming Little Amal to the city and the Lord Mayor will host Little Amal as part of the event.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The committee is asked to approve the proposal for the Lord Mayor's Day Event and allocate a budget of £42,000 for its implementation. This event plays a crucial role in promoting civic pride and cultural heritage.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<p>The Lord Mayor's Day Event will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May encompassing a day of festivities in City Hall Grounds between 12pm-5pm.</p> <p><b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>The Lord Mayor hosts Little Amal on Lord Mayor's Day</b></p> <p>Lord Mayor's Day in 2024 will bring a special way to celebrate communities across Belfast while Little Amal is in our city. The Walk, Arts Ekta and Lord Mayor's Office are working together to invite a range of community representatives to take part in the events on Lord Mayor's Day culminating in a special lunch hosted on City Hall Grounds followed by an outdoor theatre spectacle for attendees to enjoy.</p> <p>The costs for all Little Amal activity on this day are covered in full by Belfast 2024 budget. There will be a series of additional events and activities taking place on the grounds to provide entertainment and engagement for attendees on the day inspired by the themes of inclusivity and welcome, this activity is delivered by the Council's Events team, these aspects, and all City Hall production elements are covered by the Lord Mayor's Day budget of £42k.</p>

	<p><b>Lord Mayor’s Day lunch at City Hall</b>  Amal’s Big Lunch will be part of the Lord Mayor’s Day celebrations held at City Hall on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. A huge banqueting table, seating up to 100 representatives from communities across Belfast invited by the Lord Mayor and Arts Ekta, will be re-created as a theatrical set, situated on the lawns with a specially designed seat for Amal to sit at. The Lord Mayor &amp; guests from across the city will be invited to join the Lord Mayor &amp; Amal’s Big Lunch, with food being prepared by local migrant communities through Arts Ekta’s Silk Road Supper Club initiative together with BBC Great British Menu chef Gemma Austin. Following the lunch, a theatre performance will take place using the table itself as a set with the audience viewing in the round. The performance will be inspired by the story of Gulliver’s Travels. Gulliver’s Travels is an adventure story (in reality, a misadventure story) involving several voyages of Lemuel Gulliver, a ship’s surgeon, who, because of a series of mishaps en route to recognized ports, ends up, instead, on several unknown islands.</p> <p><i>Lord Mayors Day Proposed Timetable @ City Hall (Event 12-5pm)</i>  12noon to 1pm - variety of performance  1pm – arrival of Little Amal (parade from St Anne’s Cathedral organised by Artsekta)  Meet and Greet with Lord Mayor  1:30pm to 3pm - variety of performance  3pm-4pm Little Amal Big Lunch  4pm to 5pm - variety of performance  5pm Ends.</p> <p>Objectives: The event aims to achieve the following objectives:</p> <p>Foster community cohesion and pride by celebrating Belfast’s cultural diversity and heritage.</p> <p>Promote tourism and stimulate the local economy by attracting visitors to the city.</p> <p>Provide a platform for local artists, performers, and businesses to showcase their talents and products.</p> <p>Enhance the city’s reputation as a vibrant and welcoming destination for residents and tourists alike.</p> <p>Budget Allocation: A budget of £42,000 is requested to deliver the event.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Financial and Resource Implications:</b>  Financial requirements associated with the development and delivery of the Lord Mayors Day will be sought within the City Events Annual Events budget.</p>
5.0	<p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment:</b>  None</p>
7.0	<p><b>Appendices:</b>  N/A</p>

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<b>Subject:</b>	City Growth and Regeneration Committee Plan 2024-2025- Update
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Damien Martin, Strategic Director, Place and Economy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jamie Uprichard, Business Research and Development Manager

**Restricted Reports**

**Is this report restricted?** Yes  No

**Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.**

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
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7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

**If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?**

<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Sometime in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Call-in**

**Is the decision eligible for Call-in?** Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on the development of the City Growth and Reeneration (CG&R) Committee Plan for 2024-2025.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
	Members are asked to note that the draft Committee Plan will be presented for consideration at the May meeting of the Committee, but may require updating when the four year Corporate Plan for the Council has been agreed.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Each year the Committee is tasked with agreeing a Committee Plan for the year ahead. A draft Committee Plan for 2024-2025 is currently being prepared for consideration at the May meeting of the CG&R Committee. The plan will take account of recommendations from the Committee Planning workshop held in October 2023 (see appendix 1) and decisions relevant to the Committee agreed through the rates setting process. Importantly it will also need to reflect the recently approved Belfast Agenda Update and the four year Corporate Plan which is also under development.
3.2	The four year Corporate Plan will not have been agreed before the May meeting of the CG&R Committee. However, in order to ensure that the Committee has an agreed plan for the year ahead early in the financial year, it is proposed to nevertheless bring the plan forward for consideration in May, recognising that there may be a need to update it following agreement of the Corporate Plan.
3.3	An end-of-year progress report for 2023-2024 will be brought forward for consideration in May alongside the draft Committee plan.
3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> Decisions agreed during the rate setting process will be reflected in the draft Committee plan.
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no direct Equality or Good Relations implications associated with this report. There is no specific rural impact.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1- Summary of recommendations (CG&R Planning Workshop 25 October 2023)

**Summary of recommendations (CG&R Planning Workshop 25 October 2023)**

- To continue to review and refine the Committee's priorities in line with the Corporate Planning process.
- Recognition of importance of city centre whilst ensuring there is appropriate balance between city centre and wider city investment, development and regeneration.
- To continue to prioritise housing-led regeneration and neighbourhood tourism.
- To address the large areas of derelict sites both within the city centre and surrounding neighbourhoods and the high levels of vacancy above the ground floors, in addition to those at ground level.
- To consider ways to increase the impact of Developer Contributions esp with employment opportunities across the city.
- To get a better understanding of rates income sources
- A continued focus on employment & skills and particularly the Skills Academies was considered important
- The importance of transport decisions, connectivity and large scale capital infrastructure projects in context of the Eastern Transport Plan and Bolder Vision and the timing of these
- Consider ways to support the development of local neighbourhood markets, such as making use of council assets, to compliment rather than displace the current markets.
- Recognised that many priorities need to be led via Community Planning and other partnership structures and importance of supporting these
- Consideration to be given as to how to measure progress and impact on agreed programmes and Committee work plan

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Subject:	Notices of Motion – Quarterly Update
Date:	10 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Damien Martin, Strategic Director of Place and Economy
Contact Officer:	Jamie Uprichard, Business Research and Development Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>													
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<b>Never</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>											

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	This report provides a quarterly update on the Notices of Motion that the City Growth &

	Generation (CG&R) Committee is responsible for, in line with the agreement of the Strategic Policy & Resources (SP&R) Committee that all standing committees receive regular updates.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes the updates to all Notices of Motion that this Committee is responsible for as referenced in Appendix 1; and</li> <li>• Agrees to the closure of seven Notices of Motion, as referenced in Appendix 1 and noted in paragraph 3.4 below.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p>At the <a href="#">SP&amp;R Committee meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019</a>, members agreed “<i>that this Council notes that other Councils produce a monthly status report in relation to Notices of Motion; and agrees Belfast City Council adopts a similar practice and produces a monthly Notice of Motion Update which will be brought to each full Council Meeting, detailing the following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Date received</li> <li>2. Notice of motion title</li> <li>3. Submitted by which Councillor</li> <li>4. Council meeting date</li> <li>5. Committee motion is referred to</li> <li>6. Outcome of committee where Notice of Motion will be debated</li> <li>7. Month it will be reported back to committee</li> <li>8. Other action to be taken.”</li> </ol>
3.2	<p>It was subsequently agreed that quarterly updates would be brought to the council’s statutory committees providing a regular update on the progress of each motion for which the committee is responsible for.</p>
3.3	<p>At the <a href="#">SP&amp;R Committee on 20th November 2020</a>, members approved the arrangement for the future management of motions, which included recommendations that Notices of Motion could be closed for one of two reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Category 1 – Notice of Motion contained an action that has been completed.</b> All Notices of Motion within this category contained a specific task that has since been complete. It is worth noting that, when Committee agree to action a Motion, there are sometimes additional actions agreed alongside the Motion. As these are not technically part of the Notice of Motion, they are taken forward through normal committee decision making processes. The Notice of Motion can therefore be closed, but additional actions related to it will continue to be progressed and reported to the committee.</li> </ul>

3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Category 2 - Notice of Motion has become Council policy or absorbed into a strategic programme of work.</b></li> </ul> <p>These Motions did not contain a specific task that could be completed but rather they are more strategic in nature and require changes in Council policy and/ or strategy for long term outcomes. Those listed within this category have all been agreed by Committee and are now either Council policy or are currently being implemented through a Council strategy that is managed by a Standing Committee through the corporate planning process.</p> <p>There are presently 11 Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance for which the CG&amp;R Committee is responsible for. Members are asked to approve the recommendation to close seven motions (detailed below) and note status updates for the remaining four motions which remain open. Additional information is included at Appendix 1.</p> <p><b>Category 1 Recommended Closures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the Belfast Bikes Scheme (ID = 72).</li> <li>• Disabled Parking Accreditation Scheme (ID = 153).</li> <li>• Translink – Night-time provision of services (ID = 289).</li> <li>• Support the network of WW2-era Pillboxes (ID = 303).</li> <li>• Cathedral Quarter (ID = 318).</li> <li>• Late Night Public Transport (ID = 349).</li> </ul> <p><b>Category 2 Recommended Closures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street Art Walls (ID = 329).</li> </ul>
3.5	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no additional financial implications attached to this report. Finance and resource implications are considered by Committee when taking decisions on the specific Notices of Motion and Issues Raised by Members.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents attached</b></p>
	<p><b>Appendix 1: Notices of Motion Live Database – CG&amp;R Committee</b></p>

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## City Growth & Regeneration Notice of Motions

Notices of Motion and Issued Raised in Advance that remain OPEN

ID	Date	Notice of Motion	Proposed By	Referral Route	Lead Officer	Latest Status Update
152	13/01/2021	<a href="#">Environmental Infrastructure in Council Car Parks</a>	Cllr Heading	Issue Raised in Advance (CG&R)	John Tully	The Climate Team plan to present the draft Belfast EV Strategy to SP&R Committee for approval in April 2024 in advance of a public consultation in May. A Belfast EV City group will be established thereafter to support its implementation.
208	04/10/2021	<a href="#">Belfast City Nightlife and Night-time Economy</a>	Cllr de Faoite	Notice of Motion – straight to CG&R	John Greer	Representatives of the Purple Flag Steering Group are being invited to a joint meeting with the City Centre All-Party Working Group to be held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> May, following the renewal of the Purple Flag accreditation in January 2024.
217	01/11/2021	<a href="#">Tourism Street Signage</a>	Cllr Long	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	John Greer	A review has been conducted to identify potential locations, and ways of signposting visitors. Officers are still trying to determine how this can best be progressed to complement existing infrastructure such as the recently unveiled statue of Mary Ann McCracken.
309	22/02/2023	<a href="#">Rent Controls</a>	Cllr Beattie	Issue Raised in Advance (Special CG&R)	Nora Largey	DfC previously advised that they were unable to make changes relating to rent controls without a sitting NI Assembly and the NI Executive in place. Now that the Assembly is in place again, a revised letter will be sent that will set out the issues raised in this NoM.

Notices of Motion and Issued Raised in Advance recommended to CLOSE

ID	Date	Notice of Motion	Proposed By	Referral Route	Lead Officer	Update / Latest Status
72	04/03/2020	<a href="#">Review of the Belfast Bikes Scheme</a>	Cllr O'Hara	Issue Raised in Advance (CG&R)	John Greer	<b><u>Recommend to close (Category 1)</u></b> At the completion of the 2024/25 rate setting process, no additional or partnership funding was available. As a result, the granting of free access to young people aged 25 and under to the scheme is not financially viable or sustainable.
153	13/01/2021	<a href="#">Disabled Parking Accreditation Scheme</a>	Cllr McMullan	Issue Raised in Advance (CG&R)	Siobhan Toland	<b><u>Recommend to close (Category 1)</u></b> As previously reported Disability Motoring UK's Disabled Parking Accreditation scheme have confirmed that all council off-street car parks meet their recommendations for blue badge parking bays. The CNS Off-Street Car Parking team continue to address recommendations from the audit in order to make the city's car parks more accessible and inclusive for disabled people.
289	01/12/2022	<a href="#">Translink - Night-time provision of services</a>	Cllr Lyons	Notice of Motion – debated at council	Cathy Reynolds	<b><u>Recommend to close (Category 1)</u></b> As part of the process to refresh the Belfast Agenda, officers engaged through Community Planning structures to advocate an extension of the night-time provision of its Metro and Glider bus services. The recently launched Belfast Agenda action plans include an action to: "Expand the timetable with a greater service in the evenings and funding for the provision of night-time services."
303	24/01/2023	<a href="#">Support the network of WW2-era Pillboxes</a>	Ald Dorrian	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	John Greer	<b><u>Recommend to close (Category 1)</u></b> Council officers have undertaken research which suggests there is only one surviving pillbox in Belfast out of 53 across the region. This was restored in 2019. The council continues to engage with EastSide Partnership regarding ongoing tourism product development in the area.
318	27/06/2023	<a href="#">Cathedral Quarter</a>	Cllr Groogan	Notice of Motion – straight to CG&R	Cathy Reynolds	<b><u>Recommend to close (Category 1)</u></b> Correspondence was issued as per the NoM, and Castlebrooke met with Party Leaders and Party representatives on 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024. Members will also note the decision at SP&R Committee in January 2024 where approval was granted for Officers to carry out further work in relation to the possibility of

						vesting and/or acquisition of the site by agreement including seeking a valuation of the site. Cross departmental work is ongoing in respect of this. In addition, as agreed by council in February 2024, correspondence is being issued to the Ministers and Perm Secs of DfC, DfI and DfE.
329	29/08/2023	<a href="#">Street Art Walls</a>	Cllr McKeown	Notice of Motion – straight to CG&R	John Greer	<b><u>Recommend to close (Category 2)</u></b> The Culture team have incorporated actions into its 24/25 programme including a legal walls pilot, a mentoring programme and a range of workshops for street artists as part of Hit the North.
349	28/11/2023	<a href="#">Regional Jobs and Investment Bill</a>	Cllr Doherty	Notice of Motion – straight to CG&R	John Greer	<b><u>Recommend to close (Category 1)</u></b> This motion has been addressed with the proposing member.

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